

NEW JERSEY'S Weekly NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

VOLUME 6 December 8, - December 14, 2000 ISSUE 14

Gives Computer, Cassette Players, Clock Radios, Movie Passes and More at next Motivation Seminar at Loews Newark Metroplex Theatre

See Page 15 For Details

Our Gem Goes Home

Gwendolyn Brooks Pulitzer Prize Poet Winner Dies at 83



Gwendolyn Brooks shares a moment with Dr. E. Allen Flegg during a book signing event

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Gwendolyn Brooks, a poet who grew up in the slums of Chicago in the first half of the 20th Century and made history by becoming the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize, died on Sunday. She was 83. Brooks was diagnosed with cancer about a week ago, Dr. Infante Wright, her attending physician, told the Chicago Tribune.

She lived at her South Side Chicago home, "pen in hand, surrounded by virtue and people she loved."

Brooks' influence on poetry was incalculable. She broke down barriers in the subjects she addressed and in the path her career took.

"At a time when racism was so rampant, Gwendolyn Brooks was almost like a *l'Esprit* Louis," Sterling Phinney, a professor in the department of African-American Studies and English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, told the Tribune.

"At a time when black people were being clubbed into submission because of their race, it was her eloquence in her poetry that got many African-Americans to

look at their community, and to see their minds as something of great worth," he added.

She published her first 20 books in 1945. "A Street in Bronzeville" Five years later, in 1950, she became the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry for "Annie Allen."

President John F. Kennedy invited her to read at the Library of Congress in 1962, and in 1985 she was appointed poetry consultant to the library. In 1968 she was named poet laureate of Illinois, and in 1994, she was chosen to receive the federal government's highest award in literature, the Jefferson Lecture.

"Of all the American poets in our lifetime, she has been a legend," Elise Paschen, executive director of the Poetry Society of America, told the Tribune.

"Her poetry has been a great exemplar to her own generation, and to the generations that came up after her, she's been a great model, for her formal integrity, for her voice," she added.

Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas, on June 7, 1917, and her parents moved to Chicago when she was still an infant. She

was educated in an integrated high school and graduated from Wilson Junior College in 1936. That her literary career had already begun.

Her poems were published by a local newspaper. They dealt with her family and friends and what it was like to grow up black in a society still very much divided along racial lines. Along with her husband, Henry Blakely, who she married in 1938, she lived in a kitchenette apartment in Chicago's South Side. She had two children, and in between the writer.

Before her death on Sunday, the Tribune reported family and close friends read some of those poems to her.

"Nothing in particular, but mainly her poems and what we liked," Haki Madhubuti, Brooks' publisher at Third World Press and founder of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center at Chicago State University, told the newspaper. Just before the poet took her last breath, her daughter, Nora Brooks Blakely, placed a pen in her hand, Tribune reported. Brooks also is survived by a son, Henry Blakely III, and one grandson.

See Special Centerfold Section

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News & Views Talk Radio
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Greater Newark Launches Safer Cities Initiative



Mayor Sharpe James Sharpe speaks during a recent press conference, announcing the Greater Newark Safer City Initiative at the Diversity Life Center in the West Ward.

Newark, NJ - Announcing an alliance that marks the first-of-its-kind in the state, community business, government and law enforcement leaders, gathered today at the Diversity Baptist Life Center, once the site of a flourishing neighborhood bar, to celebrate Newark's record achievements in safety and launch an aggressive crime prevention strategy for Newark's future.

Community leaders for the common vision of an even safer city for Newark and New Jersey.

The Mayor headed the collaboration as one that will ensure Newark's emerging renaissance and benefit Newark's children, community residents, local businesses and downtown district visitors and shoppers for years to come.

The Greater Newark Safer City Initiative is made possible through funding from some of New Jersey's leading foundations including The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Liscant Technologies Foundation, The MCI Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and The Prudential Foundation, as well as the state of New Jersey, which also provides ongoing support.

"By joining together in this unique public/private partnership we are able to unite, for the first time, so many of Newark's resources towards the common vision of an even safer city," Dr. Mark Habbeger, president of The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey said. Community faith leader, the Reverend Dr. Byron L. Louzon, Sr., founder of the Diversity Baptist Life Center, serves as the clergy liaison to the program and said that the involvement of the community and social services is what makes this initiative different.

"By uniting a wide variety of community resources in collaboration with our law enforcement leaders, the Greater Newark Safer City Initiative is what makes this initiative different."

"With crime at a record 30-year low, and more than 1.5 million people safely visiting the NJ PAC and downtown district, Newark is safer than ever," said Mayor James. "While we are proud of this achievement, this initiative allows Newark to take that remarkable record one step further by uniting the resolve of our civic, law enforcement, social service, university and com-

(Continued on page 2)

From The Publisher's Desk

OurStory®



Booker T. Washington Coin

Black History

Twin Visions Weekly

is Telling the Story of African Americans in an explosive depiction. You'll learn about our forefathers who labored in the fields, the inventors who made history, the good times and the bad.

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"The Motivational I Baritone"



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Newark News

Newark Launches Safer Cities Initiative

(Continued from page 1)

ark Safer Cities Initiative is sending two strong messages: first, that crime will not be tolerated in Newark, and second, that Newark's community embraces its at-risk individuals and provides them with the spiritual support and life skills that they need," said Pastor Lennon.

According to Pastor Lennon, the Divine Baptist Life Center was, inactivated five years ago from a troubled neighborhood bar by him and several formerly at-risk members of his congregation that he had mentored and rededicated. The Life Center will serve as one of the meeting sites for the initiative and allow clergy and program leaders from the public and private sectors to directly work with at-risk individuals, including those on probation and parole.

According to Tony Peelo, executive director of Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey, the initiative will target and streamline social services, such as educational programs, employment opportunities, drug treatment services and job training directly to this vulnerable population. "The initiative targets around 100,000 residents directly to those that need them most in an effort to prevent crime by affecting positive

change," Peelo said.

Other community partners include Rutgers-Newark, Newark Public School System, Newark PTA, Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark, Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey, Newark Alliance, Connecticut-Newark, American Friends Service Committee, The Bridge Inc., Greater Harvest Baptist Church, Newark Weed and Seed Committee, Family Life Institute and Newark Do Something. Superior Court Judge Joseph A. Falone, Assignment Judge for Focus Village, emphasized the initiative's importance: "Newark is the city where I was born and raised, as well as the place where I have spent the majority of my professional life. As a judge for almost 15 years, I have seen all the consequences of criminal justice agencies failing to work together meaningfully to prevent crime, consequences both for Newark and for offenders who don't take their offenses or criminal justice agencies seriously. The Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative will open new doors of opportunity, both for neighborhoods and for offenders who want to live peacefully and productively in their community."

Program leaders believe that the effort, similar to Boston's Operation CeaseFire and the De-

partment of Justice's SACSII (Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiatives) program, both of which have enjoyed great success, will directly impact Newark's rate of crime.

"In the last five years, our Police Department, through strong leadership, modern technology and neighborhood patrolling, has reduced violent crime by 52 percent," said Newark Police Director Joseph Santiago, who serves as a program leader. "Now, by joining forces with faith, community, social service, university and business leaders, in one of the nation's most effective and proven crime prevention strategies, we have created a network that can help to reduce crime even further by preventing it before it occurs. We are fully committed to the Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative and working with our communities to build a new era in Newark's safety," Santiago said.

New Jersey Attorney General John Panner called the Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative "a cutting-edge approach to unifying a city in its stand against crime. It is an ideal crime prevention program that has been proven useful in other cities and can be used as a model for other cities across the state."

Congratulations!

"December" 2000
Employee of the
Month

Alice Jones,
Department of Health
and Human Services



Alice Jones

"Ms. Jones is an excellent Community Service Coordinator who takes pride in her work and in helping others," said Mayor James. "She is a valuable asset to the Newark Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the citizens of Newark," he added.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fortuna said the change this initiative represents is welcomed. "It will help to change the way criminal justice agencies do business by creating a closer-at-hand community," Fortuna said. "This broad-based partnership allows our office to be more proactive in working toward preventing the next crime, which is a truly a paradigm shift in crime prevention measures." Essex County Prosecutor Donald Campola said.

The groundwork for the Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative was laid by Mayor James, Newark Mayor Norman Samuelson covering a series of meetings with local law enforce-

ment leaders. Samuelson said, "I thought Rutgers-Newark was best poised to act as a convener of the diverse partnership needed to get this done." After securing partners and funders, School of Criminal Justice Professor George Kelling began holding weekly problem-solving meetings at Rutgers New Center for Law and Justice in November of 1999. The Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative was made operational and began implementing crime prevention tactics in early November 2000.

For more information on the initiative, contact: Mayor's Office, Newark, NJ 07102. Alternative, please contact Courtney Higgins at 973-790-0209.

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Re: "The Loews Newark Metroplex Gift Certificate Campaign"

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As president of the Community Movie Corporation, I am asking you to join me in supporting our neighborhood movie theater, the **Loews Newark Metroplex**, during this season of giving and thinking of others. You can demonstrate your support by participating in our "**Loews Newark Metroplex Gift Certificate Campaign**."

The Loews Newark Metroplex, located on Springfield Avenue and Bergen Street provides first run movies, for the enjoyment of individuals, groups and organizations in Newark and the surrounding areas. The movie theater also sponsors free and low cost activities such as premiers, film festivals, seminars and free kids shows as part of our commitment to the community.

In addition to providing needed recreation to the neighborhood, the Loews Newark Metroplex is a non-profit entity. A percentage of the profits will be given back to the community to support social, cultural, educational and economic development programs.

"Loews Newark Metroplex Gift Certificates" are available in \$5.00 denominations and may be used toward purchases at both the box office and the concession stand.

Our gift certificates are a great gift for any occasion! Use them as a way to say thank you to your employees, customers and volunteers. You may simply prefer to give them to friends as a way of saying, "You are in my thoughts." Recognize a job well done, an act of kindness, or give as a token of appreciation. Purchase additional certificates to use as incentives to reward your favorite student organization, group or local school for hard work, good grades, great deeds and community service.

To order your Newark Loews Metroplex Gift Certificates or for more information, please call our marketing consultant, Joanne Harz at 973-762-9007

You can make it all work by supporting your community theater, Loews Newark Metroplex, and participating in this "Gift Certificate" program.

Sincerely,

Michael James,
President-Community Movie Corporation Board

c. CMC Board Members



Essex County News

Sheriff Fontoura Offers Holiday Shopping and Home Safety Tips



Sheriff Fontoura

NEWARK, NJ — Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura has issued a general holiday alert to all county residents, warning them to be on their guard against scam artists and advising them to be wary of pickpockets. The sheriff also recommended a series of precautionary checks to protect homes from burglars.

Sheriff Fontoura warned shoppers that the upcoming holidays are the prime season for pickpockets, who employ very subtle diversion and feints to distract customers from their wallets, pocketbooks, jewelry, and purchases. The sheriff pointed out that two-person "bump and grab" teams routinely operated in stores and in shopping malls during December. Usually one member of the "bump and grab" team is a female.

"Holiday predators are on the prowl," the veteran public safety official stated, "and shoppers must use caution at all times."

Customers who display large amounts of cash in retail stores and restaurants are potentially sending an open invitation to thieves, muggers and pickpockets," Fontoura further advised shoppers to separate cash from credit cards and to avoid shopping alone, if possible.

The sheriff urged Essex County residents to be especially prepared for any emergency or surprise while shopping. "Be wary of persons loitering inside or outside stores. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable or nervous, don't be embarrassed to immediately call out for help. Shop with a friend and always let a family member know the details of your shopping plans."

According to Sheriff Fontoura, "shoulder surfing" is another scam to which shoppers should be alert. "When utilizing your credit card at a store counter, at a pay phone, in a restaurant or at an entertainment venue, shoppers should be extremely careful. There are many con artists who are extremely adept at positioning themselves in close proximity to shoppers in order to read or overhear credit card information. This technique, known as "shoulder surfing," costs consumers an estimated five hundred million dollars per year in fraudulent credit card purchases. Always protect your credit card information or you could be a victim of a "shoulder surfer."

Fraudulent and sophisticated telemarketing schemes are another major holiday scam.

"During the holidays when everyone is in a generous and giving mood," Fontoura noted, "scam artists and hackers work their overtime to defraud people of their hard earned money. Frequently, legitimate telemarketers will use the guise of official affiliation with a law enforcement agency to solicit funds. When in doubt, verify the solicitor's appeal with your local police department."

The sheriff advised residents that they should never succumb to high pressure, tactics and never release their credit card numbers over the phone. "To play it safe," Fontoura said, "I would advise gift-givers to route their donations through their church, synagogue, mosque or through a reputable non-solicitation agency such as the United Way." Sheriff Fontoura also recommended that all Essex County residents follow his holiday checklist to prevent home burglaries.

- Keep porch and decorative lights on while sleeping.
- Use inexpensive electrical timers on interior and exterior lights to give the appearance that someone is at home.
- Keep bushes around your home trimmed so burglars do not have a place to hide.
- Avoid advertising your purchases by breaking down gift boxes prior to recycling them.
- Double check all door and window locks and all home electrical wiring.
- Be observant for suspicious neighborhood activity.

Newark Offers Free Parking For Holiday Shoppers

Newark shoppers are getting a present from the City to help them with their holiday par-

The program of waiving parking charges is a regular event, and is run by the municipal Depart-



ment of Finance. While charges for parking meters are being waived, fines for double-parking, parking in prohibited zones or

on street-cleaning days, remain in effect, and will be enforced. Municipal ordinances banning parking at bus stops or at the hydrants also remain in full force.

"I welcome our holiday shoppers to America's reassurance city, hope they enjoy their shopping, and urge them to drive safely on our streets," James said.

"We are doing this to encourage people to come to Newark to do their holidays shopping and dining," said Mayor Sharpe James. "We welcome our holiday customers, and hope they will find Newark a friendly and convenient source for all their shopping needs."

COMMUNITY REMINDER To All Dog Owners



From Mayor Sharpe James and the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Environmental Health

1. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be accompanied by a responsible person and controlled by a LEASH NOT MORE THAN FEET LONG (Ordinance 6-1-4)
2. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall not be kept in a cage or kennel for more than 72 hours. During the month of June, July, August and September (Ordinance 6-1-4)
3. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be kept in a cage or kennel for more than 72 hours. During the month of June, July, August and September (Ordinance 6-1-4)
4. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be kept in a cage or kennel for more than 72 hours. During the month of June, July, August and September (Ordinance 6-1-4)
5. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be kept in a cage or kennel for more than 72 hours. During the month of June, July, August and September (Ordinance 6-1-4)
6. Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be kept in a cage or kennel for more than 72 hours. During the month of June, July, August and September (Ordinance 6-1-4)

IT'S THE LAW

Any dog, all the gamuts of the world shall be accompanied by a responsible person and controlled by a LEASH NOT MORE THAN FEET LONG (Ordinance 6-1-4)

CALL THE LICENSE BUREAU AND OBTAIN A DOG LICENSE TAG

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BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Make sure your pet is properly licensed by a New Jersey Licensed Veterinarian

Nominations Sought for Girl Scout Women of Distinction

The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties announced that it is seeking nominees for its 9th Annual Women of Distinction awards, which will be presented at a luncheon on Thursday, April 21, 2001 at the Robert Trust Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

According to Catherine F. Willis, Director of Fund Development/Public Relations for the council, Women of Distinction nominees should be women who have made substantial efforts to improve the quality of life in the Girl Scout Council service area, which includes all of Essex and

Hudson Counties and Saratoga and New Providence in Union County.

"Every year, our community seeks to honor dedicated and accomplished women who either live, work or volunteer in the council's jurisdiction and serve as positive female role models for today's Girl Scouts," Willis said. "Nominees should be women whose professional or volunteer activities, in the field of medicine, law, and the arts, education, science and social services, enrich our communities."

Willis added that one corpora-

tion will, also be recognized at the luncheon for outstanding support to the council. The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties recognizes that there are many outstanding females who have contributed much to the community. All organizations and interested individuals are encouraged to submit their nominations as early as possible. Nominations are due to the council office by Wednesday, January 11, 2001.

For additional information, or to obtain a nomination form, contact Catherine F. Willis at (973) 748-8200 ext. 136.



Healthy Living

Pancreatic Cancer



Dr. Colleen Walton
A Plan For Living

First, I hope all of you had a very happy Thanksgiving Day. Giving. Often times we are so busy surviving, or trying to attain what we think are the necessities of life, that we forget to take just a moment to reflect on our blessings and all for which we should be giving thanks. My first article was about acute and chronic pancreatitis. This article will cover pancreatic cancer.

As I stated before, my reasons for writing on this topic are twofold: one of my students has a relative with this disease and the death, from pancreatic cancer, of the renowned disc jockey, Frankie Crocker. If the news reports are to be believed, he did not die either his family or friends know of his illness until

to deal with an illness, education and information are two tools we must have.

Cancer is a group of many different diseases. Cancer takes place when cells divide without order and then invade and destroy the tissue around them. Normal cells grow and divide, to produce more cells, when the body needs them. This is an orderly process. With cancer, there is no order. The cells no longer grow and divide in an organized fashion and form as mass or tumor. The tumors can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). More than 100 cancers are known, and several types can grow in the pancreas.

Many of the pancreatic cancers come from the ducts that carry the pancreatic juices. When there are symptoms present, the disease is already advanced. A rare type of pancreatic cancer begins in the cells that produce insulin and other hormones. As the pancreatic cancer grows, the tumor may invade organs that surround the pancreas, such as the stomach or small intestine. These cancer cells can break away from the tumor and spread to other parts of the body such as the lymph nodes, liver, lungs or bones. Even though there

The average age is about 70. Frankie Crocker, according to the news, was 83.

Smoking — A risk factor not only for pancreatic cancer, but also for several other types as well.

Diabetes — those with diabetes are twice as likely to develop pancreatic cancer as those who do not have diabetes.

Diet — some studies show that those who have higher fat diets and lower fruits and vegetables, there is a definite link to pancreatic cancer.

Alcoholism — can lead to cirrhosis of the liver as well as to pancreatic cancer.

Occupational Exposure — being exposed to petroleum and certain chemicals have shown to possibly increase the risk of pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer: like diabetes or hypertension, is called a "silent" disease because it usually does not cause early symptoms. The cancer may have grown some time before it causes pressure in the abdomen, pain or other problems. When symptoms do appear, they are usually pretty vague (aches, discomfort) and are, at first, easily ignored. Because of this by the time pancreatic cancer is found, it has usually spread to other areas. When symptoms do appear, they block the bile duct so that bile cannot pass into the intestines, the skin and whites of the eyes may become yellow, and the urine may become dark. This is called jaundice.

(Continued on page 13)

with disease. Some folks are private and do not want others to know of their illness while others believe that by sharing, support groups can be established or more information can be shared. However we choose

other diseases, there are several risk factors.

Age — the chances of getting pancreatic cancer increase with age. Pancreatic cancer is rare in the 10 to 54 years of age group.

the tumor blocks the bile duct so that bile cannot pass into the intestines, the skin and whites of the eyes may become yellow, and the urine may become dark. This is called jaundice.

Participants Wanted For "Miracle" Weight Loss Study

Washington, DC — Have you ever wondered about miracle weight loss products that claim you can lose a massive amount of weight in a short period of time, with no drugs, no starving, and no sweating? The Fat Reduction Institute in Washington, DC is conducting a five-year study to determine whether the "Japanese Miracle" fat-reducing rings are effective to help reduce fat in certain areas of the body. Those who believe in the "miraculous" system claim that, when the specially designed ring is worn on different fingers, it will produce fat loss in different parts of the body. Those who believe in the "miraculous" system claim that, when the specially designed ring is worn on different fingers, it will produce fat loss in different parts of the body. Those who believe in the "miraculous" system claim that, when the specially designed ring is worn on different fingers, it will produce fat loss in different parts of the body.

The initial part of the study will survey 50,000 people who will wear the "miraculous" ring for 90 days and report back to the Institute the results of their weight loss, if any, during that period. After the 90 day survey is com-

pleted and published, the Institute intends to conduct a study to see whether participants who lost weight during the 90 days, are able to maintain with weight loss, continue to lose weight, or gain back the weight that they had lost. Selected participants will be paid up to \$250 to report their weight and food intake to the Institute on a weekly basis.

"There are companies marketing these cool-like rings with names such as Fat-Go-Gone for up to \$49.99. They claim that the ring can have the same effect as jogging six miles a day," said Fred Richardson, a researcher at the Fat Reduction Institute. "These type of claims may seem ridiculous, but some people have reported that they were able to lose weight due to the principles of acupuncture and acupressure. We are conducting this study to find out if these claims are fact or fiction. By participating in our study, consumers can find out if the product will work for them without having to buy it at the retail price."

The Fat Reduction Institute is a

private not for profit organization funded by survey participants. The purpose of the organization is to inform consumers about possible fraudulent advertising claims of weight loss products. By surveying large groups of people who actually test the product, the Institute hopes that consumers will be able to tell the difference between fact and fiction when it comes to advertising claims. The results of the Institute's surveys may help consumers make more informed decisions when purchasing weight loss products.

Consumers can participate in the survey, here access to the survey results and receive a "Jumbo" type ring to use for 90 days by sending \$3 to cover the cost of shipping and handling to: Fat Reduction Institute — Dept. JRI 1101 — P.O. Box 60326, Washington, DC 20019-0326. Consumers can also get more information the Fat Reduction Institute's study by calling 202-595-2126, or by visiting the organization's web site: www.FatReductionInstitute.org

"As far as I'm concerned, Planned Parenthood is for life."



I've had a long and happy relationship with Planned Parenthood that began when I was young and needed advice about birth control. You know, I can still remember my first visit. They sensed I was nervous, but their kindness made me feel comfortable and secure. And I discovered that they offered a wide range of affordable services that covered all my special health care needs. So, I started making regular appointments.

And even when I could finally afford to go somewhere else, I made a very smart choice. I stayed with Planned Parenthood. And why not? Planned Parenthood people are sensitive, courteous and as professional as can be. And everything is confidential.

Now that I'm older, I still go to Planned Parenthood for their midlife services. As always, they take the time to answer all my questions in plain language, and they're as caring as ever.

I'm glad I've stayed with Planned Parenthood all these years, and now that I know they're committed to the special health care needs of women of all ages, I don't plan on leaving. They really are for life!

For an appointment, call toll-free 1-800-230-PLAN
Planned Parenthood

Support The National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey This Holiday Season By Purchasing Dream Car Raffle Tickets As Gifts

This holiday season, if you're wondering what to buy that special person who has everything, why not consider Dream Car Raffle tickets, where the Grand Prize is a sleek, new 2001 SAAB 9-5 Convertible.

The National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey, in cooperation with SAAB Cars of North America, has announced the 16th Annual Dream Car Raffle, in which some lucky person will drive home the Grand Prize. The drawing will take place at the New York International Auto Show at the Jacob Javits Convention Center on April 22, 2001. The winner need not be present to claim his or her prize.

The seller of the winning ticket will receive a \$3,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Both the buyer and seller of the Second Prize winning ticket will receive a \$300 U.S. Savings Bond and the buyer and seller of the Third Prize winning ticket will each receive a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond.

Everyone who participates in the Dream Car Raffle is already a winner by supporting the goals of the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey.

Tickets, which make excellent

stocking stuffers or Hanukkah gifts, are available for a suggested contribution of \$5.00 each or a book of six (6) tickets for \$25.00. You may purchase the tickets yourself or sell them to family, friends, neighbors and business associates.

Raffle books may be paid for by check or money order, MasterCard, American Express or Visa. To order your raffle books, phone the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey at (212) 624-9770, or visit its web site at www.kidney.org. Checks and money orders should be made payable to: National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey and mailed to 1250 Broadway, Suite 2001, New York, NY 10001-3793.

The National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey is a voluntary, non-profit health organization dedicated to the research, treatment and cure of kidney, hypertension and urologic diseases for more than 50 years. The Foundation receives no government funding and relies solely on contributions from the general public to support its lifesaving programs.

Union County News

Plainfield's Beautification Committee Invites All Its Residents And Businesses To Join The 2000

Holiday Decorations Contest

The Plainfield Beautification Committee will honor outstanding homes and businesses in all four Wards for their exterior Holiday Decorations.

Winners will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Al McWilliams and recognition by the City Council.

In the continuing spirit of community pride, the City of Plainfield will come together again to recognize awards to residents all of our residential homes in each ward, and in the business community.

The First place awards, The Best Decorated House award, will represent four residential homes, one in each ward, with the best "Christmas Decorations".

The Business awards, The Best storefront Decoration, in all four wards will be presented to a local business that has adopted improvements to the exterior of the building or to the property, during the Christmas holidays.

Please call or write in, or fax nominations and addresses, NLT Dec 4, 2000, and return them to the Community Relations Dept. City Hall 315 Watchung Ave. 2nd floor, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or contact our Beautification Committee at 908 753-1603, or fax 908-236-1587.

Judging will take place between December 5, 2000-December 25, 2000 and all contest winners residence businesses will be displayed in local news, and recognized in the City Hall Rotunda during the holidays.

Thank you very much for your support!!

HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST-2000
HOME BUSINESS:
PHONE:
RULES:
JUDGES:
RELEASE:

FAX TO: 908-236-1587
MAIL TO: CITY HALL 315 WATCHUNG AVE. 2ND FL. C/O ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT V. PALOMINO'S 3003
DEADLINE: 12-20-00

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For a brochure and more information, call 1-877-4NJBEST or visit www.njb主.com

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2ND ANNUAL HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is here. The time has come for the decorative blue, green & white lighting to appear. Once again, The Recreation Advisory Committee is sponsoring the 2nd Annual "Plainfield Home Decorating" contest beginning on December 5, 2000 and running through December 31, 2000.

Contestants will submit their entry (one (1) home from each of the four (4) City's wards) will be selected winners. If you would like for your home to be considered, you can fill out the entry form and send it back to the address below or contact the Recreation office at (908) 753-1607 for more information.

Recreation Advisory Committee
City Hall West Building
315 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Each winner will receive a certificate of participation from Mayor Albert E. McWilliams, Jr. The Division of Parks and Recreation will award each winner with a gift certificate for two (2) to three (3) tickets to the City of Plainfield's summer camp program to summer camp activities.

Home Decorating Contest Form

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

NAACP Metuchen Edison Area Branch 6th Annual Kwanzaa Extravaganza

On Thursday, December 14, the NAACP Metuchen-Edison Area Branch will host its 6th Annual Kwanzaa Extravaganza. Included in the festivities will be entertainment, free food and vendors. The entertainment will be provided by gospel group Exodus 4:12, and the local Art Forces of Triangle step team. Both groups were formed at North Sichen AME Church, located in Piscataway, NJ. Some of the items that will be available for sale in the vendor area include clothes, Afro-centric gifts, cookware and cosmetics.

To reinforce the meaning of Kwanzaa, there will be a candle-

lighting ceremony conducted by Marie Joyner Correll, owner of Majestic Collections, a store specializing in Afro-centric books, gifts and artwork, located in Plainfield, NJ. The Kwanzaa Extravaganza will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Edison Job Corps, 506 Plainfield Ave., Edison, NJ. Although not required to attend the event, the branch is requesting that attendees bring a new, unwrapped toy for their holiday drive drive.

Contact Paulette Williams (732) 205-9888, Ext. 3 for further information.



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Religion

Let Him Open Your Eyes

By Vincent Crowley

St. Mark 8:22-23

Jesus took a blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything, and he looked up and said, "I see men like trees walking." Then Jesus put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up and he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

There are many people who are not able to do what you are doing this very moment, and that is the ability to use their eyesight. A lot of people have been robbed at birth of this sense, others have lost their sight due to a dreadful disease or an unfortunate accident. When I was a young boy there were times when I would close my eyes and try to function to imagine how it must feel to be blind. It was quite difficult but not a reality because I knew whenever I needed to I could open my eyes. I know people who are blind and have heard them share how dependent they are on their other abilities to assist their handicap. Their hearing is much keener than the nose, for it is heavily relied upon for direction and awareness. Now,

there are many people who are not able to do what you are doing this very moment, and that is the ability to use their eyesight. All of us have been robbed at birth of this sense due to a significant amount of darkness and others have lost their vision due to an unfortunate crisis or pressure. When I was younger there were times I

would try to open my eyes just to say I could see and know where I supposed to be to know those who were raising me off my back. But it was quite difficult and not a reality, because whenever I was ready to see, I knew who I had to see. I know people who are blind and I see how dependent they are on their abilities to overbook this handicap. They rely heavily upon their wealth, education and status in life for security and peace.

God's desire is to open our eyes that we may be able to see our need for a Saviour. People don't see a need for salvation if they can't see where they are headed. Someone needs to hear that they need to be born again. Those of us who have come out of the darkness of sin are obligated to "go back in" not to say but to provide light and bring out those that are blind. Jesus told Nicodemus that "you cannot see" unless you are born again." (St. John 3:3) People that are physically blind are not so much in need of eyes, but there is not a coordination of light for their pupils to properly function. It's the same spiritually. When Jesus talks about the blind, He is referring to those who have not committed His blood to Him. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. I am the light and have come as a light into the world that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness." (St. John 12:46)

In our scripture text the people brought a blind man to Jesus for Him to heal. But Jesus took

their request to another level. Although he performed many miracles, Christ's concern was primarily the healing of the soul and not the body. After Jesus touched him the first time he asked him what did you see, his response was he saw a man like the size of trees walking. This could be an indication that Jesus touched and opened his spiritual eyes and he could have been in the heavenliest seeing the angels rejoice! Hey, any touch from Jesus brings joy! Then Jesus touched him again and he was able to see people clearly. I can see how Jesus concern for us not just to look to see what we can get lost, but to see His will for our life here. Twin Vision, having a clear focus of your purpose in life naturally and spiritually. The bible states, "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Can you see your purpose and mission? "Your vision clear? Or are you really not sure. Will the same Jesus who healed and opened up the blinded eyes yesterday is here today?" "Your eyes have not seen all the things that He has prepared for you!" (1st Cor. 2:9) I pray that if you are reading this article and have not experienced the Light of Jesus Christ, that you take

the opportunity to see Jesus. Use a first recorded word in the bible as, "Let there be light." And guess what? That must be your request and He will perform it! It's a blessing to have vision to read this article but there is a greater vision to read beyond it!

Vincent Crowley@africana.com

The Value Of A Smile



Sharing A Vision with Robert "L" Criner

The Value of A Smile (At Cost Nothing but Creates More)

It enriches those who receive. Without impoverishing those who give.

It happens in a flash, and the memory of its sweetness lasts forever.

None are so rich that they can get along without it, and none are so poor that they refuse to offer it.

It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in a business, and is the cornerstone of friendship.

It is not in the money.

The light to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best attribute for trouble.

Yes, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen. For it is something that is most easily given to anybody.

And if it is given away And if it ever happens That some people should be so kind to give you a smile, Why not leave one of yours?

For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give. Confession! That's what makes me feel from Robert's first words. They feel it and quickly come to share it.

He gives his powerful message across in a winning and inspiring way. It motivates others to get people to want to do it change, to take charge of their lives, to be better, more successful, and to know they are unique, then Robert L. Criner is the speaker you want.

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- Diversity: Building Effective Relationships
- Stress: How to control it, manage it and turn it to advantage
- Self-Confidence: How to build it and keep it

Robert L. Criner, The "R" is for Relationships.

To receive a media packet listing Robert's motivational, speech-writing topics and to obtain a schedule of Robert's availability contact:

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P.O. Box 7007 W.D.B.
West Orange, NJ 07092
Tel: (973) 334-2180
Fax: (973) 242-2443

The Cathedral-Second Baptist Church Breaks Ground for Affordable housing

Perth Amboy, NJ - The Cathedral Community Development Corporation (CCDC) announced today the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Cathedral Village on Friday, December 8, 2000 at 11:00 AM, located at 100 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy, NJ.

The Cathedral Village is a market rate and affordable housing development consisting of ten (10) single family townhouses. CCDC purchased Cathedral Village to the public earlier this year and is in the process of reviewing and approving applications for mortgages.

"Cathedral Village is a much-needed, response to the moderate supply of affordable housing for Perth Amboy families," said Dr. Donald Hilliard, Jr., CCDC's Founder and CEO. Dr. Hilliard is the senior pastor of The Cathedral-Secord Baptist Church, which has been respon-

sible for a great deal of redevelopment in the city of Perth Amboy. A variety of projects is underway. Perth Amboy soon harbored after the purchase and renovation of the old blighted Mayfield Theatre, now a beautiful state of the art house of worship, known as The Cathedral.

Representatives from the City of Perth Amboy and NJ Department of Community Affairs along with the Reinvestment Fund collaborative lending initiative have provided funding for Cathedral Village and will attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

A luncheon will be held immediately following at The Cathedral Family Life Center, 272 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy. The public is invited to attend. More information about Cathedral Village is available by calling (732) 826-4020.

West Kinney Alternative High School

"Do Something"

The "Do Something" Team at West Kinney Alternative High School are requesting donations for one of our teachers who was burned out during the holidays and lost everything. The family consists of mother, father, a four-year-old girl and a 10 month old boy and a fifteen-year-old boy. If you have any donations please call Trina Jones or Evelyn Evans at (973) 733-6606 or (973) 733-7018.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Trina Jones
"Do Something"

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Imani Baptist Church of Christ, Inc.
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Dr. Albert J. Lewis, Jr. National Praise
Dancer Minister
Founder/CEO - minister Gina Riley
World Gospel Music Association

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The Buck Starts Here

Anthony G. Davis

Are You Getting Your Piece Of the Pie?

Check this out. The Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games (ACOG) reports that almost \$155 million (which is one-third of their discretionary expenditures) has been contracted with construction and non-construction related minority firms. PepsiCo spends more than \$100 million every year with minority business. I personally know of more than 700 major corporations who have agreed to work with minority-owned businesses. The funny part is, you only have to be a minority in this country. As we all know, globally, we are not in the minority!

Medical and dental plans? Flexible working hours? Perhaps. Research indicates that the best job is one you provide for yourself. A close friend of mine (I won't say who) worked for a major corporation. The job provided better than average pay, medical and dental coverage, relatively flexible hours, even the chance to meet great people every day. Utopia, right? Wrong! You see, my friend became convinced that he could make as much, if not more, money for himself as he, could working for someone else. Ah, I disagree. Surely, my friend does not want his business in the street.

People, stand up! It is time to own what you want! I promise you that no one is going to give you what you want! Now, rest assured that I am not hanging the drums and calling for a riot. I am merely asking for a moment of your time to show you a different way. Typically, when we hear of individuals who have achieved a level of success that we dream about, we tend to think they have either illegitimate gains or "they know somebody." However, it is possible "to get yours" without stepping on the other guy (friend or foe). We've heard for years that we should develop our own businesses, supply our own markets, and take care of our own communities. Well, as I am sure you already know, it takes money to take care of anything. However, all money is not good money. Any money that comes from the disadvantage of another is not good. If yours is not a "win-win" situation, you should seek to change your circumstances.

How to make this elusive money, you ask? How about a good job? What is a good job? Better than average paycheck?

So how do we make this money we all need and want so desperately? Simple. *Employ yourself (legally)! It does not matter how young, old, gifted, financially endowed, or brilliant you are. Today, it is quite simple to have your own business. There are only two things that are vital to every successful business (one of 'em ain't money, although it helps).* With these two things you can build your very own empire! *Knowledge and common sense will do more for your business than anything else. Without these two things, money is not possible! If I'm wrong, check me on it. Knowledge teaches you what to do and common sense won't let you quit until it is done. While many people in our community can supply you with knowledge, only you determine your level of commitment! So get some information and get your piece of the pie!*
**EAT TO LIVE
LIVE TO EAT**

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Business

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Fannie Mae Increases 2001 Single-Family Mortgages

WASHINGTON, DC - Fannie Mae (FNM/NYSE), the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages, today announced that it will increase its single-family mortgage loan limit to \$275,000 for 2001. The company noted that in 2000, this increase would allow approximately 153,000 more families to take advantage of the savings provided by having a Fannie Mae mortgage. For example, at

its current spread between rates for a Fannie Mae mortgage and a jumbo mortgage, these home buyers would save up to \$24,600 over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Limits for multi-unit loans will also increase for 2001 as follows: two-family loans to \$351,950, three-family loans to \$425,400, and four-family loans to \$528,700. The maximum loan amounts for one-to-four family mortgages in

Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands are 50 percent higher than the limits for the rest of the country. The Fannie Mae loan limit for second mortgages will increase to \$137,500; in Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands, it will increase to \$206,250.

Fannie Mae is a New York Stock Exchange company and the largest non-bank financial

services company in the world. It operates pursuant to a federal charter and is the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages. Fannie Mae is working to shrink the nation's "homeownership gaps" through a \$2 trillion "American Dream Commitment" to increase homeownership rates and serve 18 million targeted American families by the end of the decade. Since 1968, Fannie Mae has

provided \$2.9 trillion of mortgage financing for over 35 million families. **Style Usage:** Fannie Mae's Board of Directors has authorized the company to operate as "Fannie Mae," and the company's stock is now listed on the NYSE as "Fannie Mae." In order to facilitate clarity and avoid confusion, news organizations are asked to refer to the company exclusively as "Fannie Mae."

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Newark Department of Health and Human Services

WIC Program

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Anthony Carrino
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Gayle H. Chaneyfield Jenkins
Council Member, At-Large
Luis Quintana
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Donald K. Tucker
Council Member, At-Large

Bessie Walker
Council Member, At-Large
Juliana T. Watson
Deputy Director
Catherine Cuomo-Cecilia
Director
Department of Health & Human Services

Kwanzaa For Young People And Everyone

KWANZAA For Young People And Everyone also has been named a winner in Learning Magazine's 2000 Teachers Choice Awards. It has also received the Kids First Endorsement in the category of Jewish Education. This is the first time a result of the vote in 2000 Edition of the New York Times Guide to the Best Children's Videos (CDs are also listed).

With this release we humbly hope we have filled a niche void in the areas of family-oriented Jewish and African-American Jewish education. We hope that it is a resource for Kwanzaa observance in that we know the Jewish share with us in making a new year's resolution to a practice of original times, which takes its roots in a Jewish practice through the year past. There is a special song at each principle, a computer game. Review messages in flash format, an explanation and thought in each step, audio in Hebrew, including the due an idea gift for children.

Featured performers include vocalists Kenya Hahn, youngest daughter of the great Denzil Haskins, and formerly

with Bruce McKim, and a song by a Jewish-African-American singer Michael Shabazz, who is a member of the Jewish-African-American community. The CD is a new music-driven CD with songs. Producers have known for his work as producer of the Phil Spector's 1960s Mr. Music. He also gave it the name, Kwanzaa Music, is the CD's cultural producer, arranger and principal composer. Associate producer and sharing arrangement and a song that is a gift. Songwriter Lyle Moore, who has not produced an album in a decade, including Justice Reves and Maurice White. The beautiful and moving seventh track, "I am Jewish-Kenya Hahn," is the signature to the album, as it is a common song.

The CD can be obtained by calling the phone number 888-746-7466 or by visiting the website www.kwanzaamusic.com. The CD is available for \$5.99. For all other questions please contact The Cornelia Company at 723-357-9650.

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For more information, call the New Jersey Energy Choice Toll-Free Hotline 1-877-864-4725 or visit our website at www.njenergychoice.com.

Learning Around Our City

A Weekly Lesson In Newark

Our Gem Goes Home



Gwendolyn Brooks
1917—2000



Poet Gwendolyn Brooks is shown holding her book "Annie Allen" in this 1961 photo. Brooks, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for winning candid and compassionate poetry that delved into poverty, racism and drugs among black people.

Our earth is round, and, among other things
That means that you and I can hold
completely different
Points of view and both be right.
The difference of our positions will show
Stars in your window. I cannot even imagine
Your sky may burn with light,
While mine, at the same moment,
Spreads beautiful to darkness
Still, we must choose how we separately corner
The circling universe of our experience
Once chosen, our cornering will determine
The message of any star and darkness we
encounter

--Corners on the Curving Sky



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presents the book "Annie Allen" to Gwendolyn Brooks, right, during the National Endowment for the Arts award ceremony in Newark, N.J., on March 16, 1999. (AP photo)

Teaching Our Children

The poet laureate of cool

Gwendolyn Brooks showed kids a world of words, a path to pride and truth

OH, we be cool, all right
Reecal cool
See for yourself

We real cool. We

Left school. We

Lurk late. We

Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We

Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We

Die soon.

BY ROQUE MONTANA

CRACKS. Her Black, joined it like she saw it. She waded poetic living from it, and dipped in attitude and authenticity.

I am interested in telling my particular truth as I have seen it, she once said. She kept her word. And for that, a little, always remember the author. The teacher. The mentor. The mother.

Brooks died Sunday, poet, a kind. But her gifts, unwrapped in her works on the train of her poetic existence, are still here.

She was especially fond of young ones, and she often used her position to inspire them to write. "I was one of them."

Her quiet influence on me was immeasurable. Just as a mother nurtures a child, she did her words nourish my spirit.

It was a time when many were frightened. She held fast to pride and integrity. She was a woman of the people.

Until the day she died, Brooks never simply to tell the truth. She saw it.

Brooks wrote more than 100 poems, but more than 70 books of poetry. She was a poet, a writer, a woman, a mother, a friend, a mentor, a teacher, a woman of the people.

She made history in 1950 by becoming the first black person to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry for "Annie Allen," a series of poems that traces the progress to womanhood of a black girl.

But it was neither her accolades nor her awards that made her a poet. It was her gift. Rather, it was her humanity.

She rejected the hollow stand of fame, choosing instead to root herself in the land of the living. She was a woman of the people, a woman of the people.

The anger she became, the more grounded were her feet. President John Kennedy invited her to read at the Library of Congress in 1962. But you could also find her reading in libraries, in local madhouses, schools, or in markets at the toughest of prices.

Brooks was a woman of the people, a woman of the people.

Among the poems in 1945's "A Street in Bronzeville," is "The Mother, about abortion."

The damp small pulps with a little or with no hole,

The singers and workers that never handled the air

You will never neglect or boot

Them, or silence or buy with a sword

You will never wind up the sucking thumb

Or scotch off ghosts that come

You will never leave them, controlling your lascivious sign

Return for a snack of them, with gobbling mother-eye

While the bulk of her work gave insight into black culture and the impact of race on identity on life, Brooks captured deep wounds here. It is to offer a broader vision of humanity.

Her first poem, "The Mother," was turned into a poem about the mother's down south.

The sterility family lost a treasured sibling, though she'll run forever through my veins.

No, she probably didn't remember me. Our introduction was far too brief. I was not yet a student of wide-eyed college students who hung around after her readings, listening, a moment of a poet's life, a moment of a word up for something to see in the person's gaze.

And then, like now, the words never seem to do justice to the moment.

Roque Montana is a Mercury News editorial writer.



When the poet laureate, which she was, became the first black person to win a Pulitzer Prize, Brooks' portrait of herself, painted by Anne Stokes, was shown in a group at a ceremony in Chicago in the Sunday, June 1989 file photo.

Help is Available To Help Reduce Energy Bills

Washington, DC Financial Assistance Network is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that provides a booklet, "How to Reduce Your Energy Bills," to help residents save money on their energy bills. The booklet gives information on how and where homeowners can get government help to reduce their heating bills.

The Federal government has made available more than \$1 billion in a variety of help programs to help people reduce their energy bills. The programs are available to homeowners and renters who own or rent a home with a heating system, water heater, windows, insulation, roofing and siding. Many people are not aware that this assistance is available or how to get it," says Edmund B. Ludwig, a researcher at Financial Assistance Network. "We've published a booklet to help homeowners understand and use these programs. It's available at no charge. The booklet also gives information on how and where homeowners can get government help to reduce their heating bills."

Financial Assistance Network is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that provides a booklet, "How to Reduce Your Energy Bills," to help residents save money on their energy bills. The booklet gives information on how and where homeowners can get government help to reduce their heating bills.

Homeowners can receive a copy of the booklet by calling 1-800-368-5848. The booklet is available in Spanish and Chinese. Financial Assistance Network is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that provides a booklet, "How to Reduce Your Energy Bills," to help residents save money on their energy bills. The booklet gives information on how and where homeowners can get government help to reduce their heating bills.

Nowark Declares Amnesty for TaxPAYERS

The City of Newark will waive the city's tax on unpaid property taxes and other charges for all property owners who pay their bills by the end of the year.

The 10-day amnesty period starts on December 1, 2000, and ends on December 10, 2000.

The amnesty period applies to all property owners who pay their bills by the end of the year. The amnesty period applies to all property owners who pay their bills by the end of the year. The amnesty period applies to all property owners who pay their bills by the end of the year.

At a courtesy to the public, the Tax Collector's office hours will be extended to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, and Wednesday, December 6. The agency is located at 84 City Hall, 620 Broad Street.

The Mayor explained the amnesty program is being offered to help property owners who are having difficulty paying their bills.

Due to the late adoption of the city's annual budget, the city's financial condition is not as strong as it was in previous years. The city's financial condition is not as strong as it was in previous years.

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Assemblyman Payne

Profiling Documents Under Score Why Verniero Should Be Impeached

Newark NJ (Cont.) A published report in the Newark Star-Ledger last Tuesday, December 3, 2000, titled "Profiling Documents Under Score Why Verniero Should Be Impeached" by Assemblyman James M. Payne, Jr., is a powerful indictment of the Newark Police Department's racial profiling practices.

The report details the Newark Police Department's racial profiling practices, including the use of racial profiling to target African American and Hispanic residents for stops, searches, and seizures. The report also details the Newark Police Department's racial profiling practices, including the use of racial profiling to target African American and Hispanic residents for stops, searches, and seizures.

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questions surrounding the fair application of the law are being reported.

Among the parties who filed a lawsuit were the Plaintiff, the chapter of the NAACP, the Newark Police Department, and the Newark Police Department. The report details the Newark Police Department's racial profiling practices, including the use of racial profiling to target African American and Hispanic residents for stops, searches, and seizures.

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Peace Building are also expected to be a part of the program.

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It is important to let this judge know that he would be not going to be questioned about it.

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Planning Meeting for the March on Trenton Against Police Brutality and Racial Profiling

Saturday, December 23, 2000 at 3:00 PM

Imani Community Center
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Sponsored By:
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New Jersey Million Man March Coalition
Trenton Million Family March Coalition

For further information call POP
(973) 801-0001 or NCN (973) 643-7711

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